

Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 02680 311632Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /037 W
-----023731 010615Z /13
R 311500Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5650
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2680

DEPT PASS OPIC FOR BONNY HENDERSON AND JIM BANKS

ACCRA AND MONROVIA PLS PASS JAMES BANK OPIC FINANCE OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, EINV, CM
SUBJECT: CAMEROONIAN INVESTMENT MISSION TO THE U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 095676 (B) YAOUNDE 2359

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REF A. ON APRIL 27 EMBASSY SENT NOTE OFFICIALLY PROPOSING TO GURC INVESTMENT MISSION ALONG LINES DISCUSSED REFS A AND B. WILL POUCH COPY OF NOTE. WE UNDERSTAND NOTE IS CURRENTLY SOMEWHERE IN THE PRESIDENCY. UNOFFICIALLY PASSED COPY TO NOMO WHO APPEARS TO BE QUITE POSITIVE. HE, HOWEVER, STATES THAT HE CAN TAKE NO SPECIFIC ACTION UNTIL APPROVAL RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENCY. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE PERSON IN PRESIDENCY HANDLING MATTER AND HAVE PROCESSING OF NOTE EXPEDITED.

2. TIMING OF MISSION. EMBASSY SUGGESTED TO NOMO THAT MISSION BE SCHEDULED EITHER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER AUTUMN MEETINGS OF IMF. IN THIS WAY, MISSION COULD BENEFIT FROM HIGH LEVEL
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LEADERSHIP -- I.E. MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLAN OR MINISTER OF FINANCE. NOMO AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH.

3. COMPOSITION OF MISSION. WE FULLY IN AGREEMENT THAT MISSION SHOULD BE KEPT SMALL AND THAT MOST MEMBERS SHOULD SPEAK ENGLISH. IN OUR NOTE WE SUGGESTED 4 TO 8 SELECTED CAMEROONIANS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT. FYI GURC CURRENTLY HAS INVESTMENT

MISSION IN FRG MADE UP OF OVER 80 REPEAT 80 CAMEROONIANS AND LED BY PM PAUL BIYA. FRG COMMERCIAL ATTACHE STATES THAT THIS MISSION STARTED OUT QUITE SMALL BUT GREW LIKE TOPSY. AS A RESULT, IT HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A MEDIA EVENT IN CAMEROON. WITH COPIOUS NEWSPAPER AND RADIO COVERAGE. EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES WE MUST AVOID SIMILAR DEVELOPMENT IF MISSION TO US IS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

4. AGENDA. WE AGREE WITH YOUR SUGGESTION THAT FORMAL PRESENTATION SHOULD BE LIMITED TO HALF-DAY. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF OPIC OR SPONSORING ORGANIZATION IN A PARTICULAR CITY COULD ARRANGE INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF MISSION. PERHAPS THIS COULD BE HANDLED DURING ADVANCE TRIP.

5. LOCATION. WHILE EMBASSY NOT OPPOSED TO CITIES MENTIONED REF A, WE BELIEVE FINAL SELECTION SHOULD AWAIT DETAILED PLANNING OF MISSION. IDEALLY, CHOICE OF CITIES SHOULD MESH WITH COMPOSITION OF MISSION. FYI EMBASSY MENTIONED MISSION TO CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS REPS, (CHARLES O#HARA, VP; JOHN COOPER, INT. BKNG. OFF.) AND THEY PROMISED THEIR COOPERATION IF CHICAGO IS SELECTED.

6. WILL INFORM ASAP OF DEVELOPMENTS HERE.
SMYTHE

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Message Attributes

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